(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), the Government announced the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007. An Inter-Ministerial Committee finalized a Plan of Action for operationalisation of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October, 2008 to all the State Governments particularly with respect to the items falling within the purview of State Governments and the central Ministries/Departments concerned, for necessary action. A regular monitoring mechanism has also been put in place to oversee the progress of implementation of NPF 2007.

Special agriculture zones

3247. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some State Governments have decided to set up Special Agriculture Zones (SAZs) on the lines of Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, whether Central Government proposes to encourage the States who have set up such SAZs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pathetic condition of farmers

3248. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land available in India is 54 to 57 per cent of total land area while the world average is 10 to 11 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian farmers are in a very pathetic and miserable condition;

(d) if so, the details of farmers who committed suicide during last one year, State-wise;

(e) whether farmers are committing suicide due to very less increase in MSP of agricultural products in comparison to other essential articles; and

(f) whether Government will increase the MSP in accordance with the inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Total Agricultural land, which consists of net area sown, fallow lands, culturable waste land and land under miscellaneous tree crops was 55.6 % of the total Geographical area of the country during 2006-07, whereas the percentage of arable land was 10.9% to the total land area in the world in 2006, according to FAO Statistical Yearbook 2007-08.

(b) A Statement on State-wise Geographical area and Agricultural Land for the year 2006-07 is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers conducted during 2003 in the rural areas by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure for farmer households at all India level during the year 2003 was Rs. 502.83 (less by 9.3%) compared to Rs. 554.15 for all rural households.

(d) State-wise cases of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons as per the information made available by the State Governments for the year 2008 are as follows:

Andhra Pradesh	-	390
Gujarat	-	1
Karnataka	-	143
Kerala	-	22
Maharashtra	-	627
Punjab	-	10
Tamil Nadu	-	1

(e) and (f) As reported by the State Governments, the reasons for committing suicide by the farmers are broadly due to crop failure, indebtedness, drought and socio-economic factors.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after comprehensive analysis of the concerned crop sectors, has recommended a substantial hike of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for several crops for the year 2008-09.

While recommending Minimum Support Prices for agricultural commodities, CACP factors in inflation in terms of increase in input cost in real terms, apart from several other factors. The prices of all the inputs going into the cultivation of a particular crop are updated according to their respective relevant price indices to take into account inflation at the level of factors of production and at the same time the inflationary trends in market prices are also accounted for while arriving at the MSP.

Statement

State-wise Geographical Area, Cultivable Area and its percentage during 2006-07

(Area in Thousand Hectares)

State/Union Territory	Geographical Area	Cultivable Area	% of Cultivable Area
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	27507	15911	57.8
Arunachal Pradesh	8374	422	5.0
Assam	7844	3224	41.1
Bihar	9416	6638	70.5
Chhattisgarh	13519	5581	41.3
Goa	370	197	53.2
Gujarat	19602	12412	63.3
Haryana	4421	3782	85.5
Himachal Pradesh	5567	813	14.6
Jammu & Kashmir	22224	1048	4.7
Jharkhand	7972	4184	52.5
Karnataka	19179	12894	67.2
Kerala	3886	2329	59.9
Madhya Pradesh	30825	17312	56.2
Maharashtra	30771	21162	68.8
Manipur	2233	231	10.3
Meghalaya	2243	1057	47.1
Mizoram	2108	213	10.1
Nagaland	1658	657	39.6
Orissa	15571	7473	48.0
Punjab	5036	4270	84.8
Rajasthan	34224	25600	74.8
Sikkim	710	155	21.8

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	13006	8148	62.6
Tripura	1049	310	29.6
Uttarakhand	5348	1504	28.1
Uttar Pradesh	24093	19268	80.0
West Bengal	8875	5751	64.8
A & Nicobar Islands	825	47	5.7
Chandigarh	11	2	18.2
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	49	24	49.0
Daman & Diu	11	3	27.3
Delhi	148	54	36.5
Lakshadweep	3	3	100.0
Puducherry	48	31	64.6
All-India	328726	182708	55.6

Per-capita availability of pulses

3249. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability of per capita pulses in the country during last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that availability of pulses is decreasing year by year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to increase production and availability of pulses during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) State-wise data on per capita availability of pulses is not maintained. The per capita availability of pulses in the country as a whole has increased from 11.8 kg. per year in 2006 to 12.9 Kgs. per year in 2007 and further to 15.3 kgs. per year in 2008 (Provisional).

(d) The Government implements a number of programmes/schemes to increase the production and availability of pulses in the country which includes, *inter-alia*, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc.